In the Claims

Claims 1 – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering video programs or sequences containing reference images such as I-frames collected by or stored in at least one adapted multimedia server through a wide area network to authorized users provided with arrangements to receive video programs or the sequences, comprising:

addressing a multimedia server or an associated portal server through a wide area network and ordering transfer of one or more given video programs(s) or sequence(s) to an identified video interfacing arrangement also connected to the wide area network for immediate display or for at least partial storage and delayed display;

checking the user's authorization at the portal server and, optionally, preloading an adapted transfer protocol and decode or descramble software from the portal server towards the video interfacing arrangement;

transferring ordered program(s) and/or sequence(s) associated with identify, security, cryptographic and handling restriction information, preceding or entangled with video data flow; and

displaying, transferring, recording or handling in another way transferred video program(s) and/or sequence(s) upon the user's instructions, after checking of identity and rights, in accordance with optional handling restrictions,

wherein the video program(s) or the sequence(s) sent to the user are divided into two parts: a first part corresponding to the original video program in which some or all of reference images are substituted and a second part stored on the multimedia server and corresponding to the original reference images and information allowing reconstruction of the original video program from the

first part and wherein the second part is obtained with a connection to the multimedia server each time a user wants to watch the video program and is necessary to reconstruct the original video program.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the I-frames are substituted in the first part by random I-images.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the I-frames are substituted by other I-frames of the same program.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the I-frames are substituted in the first part by random I-images and by other I-frames of the same program.

Claims 43 – 44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the multimedia server is connected on the wide area network and the program restoring the original video program is partially stored in the server.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the multimedia server is connected on the wide area network and the program restoring the original video program is totally stored in the server.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the arrangement comprises a module and the program restoring the original video program is executed in the module.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the multimedia server is connected on the wide area network and the program restoring the original video program is executed in the server.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the multimedia server is connected on the wide area network, the arrangement comprises a module and the program

restoring the original video program is executed partially in the module and partially in the server.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the multimedia server is connected on the wide area network and the original reference images are sent with a high level of security, being scrambled by a dedicated algorithm in the multimedia serve to prevent illegal copying of the I-images.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the handling restrictions are at least one selected from the group consisting of maximum number of viewing, maximum local storage time, fixed display time, uninterrupted display, absence of rewind, forward features and no copying possibility.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the preloaded decode or descramble software is integrated within the video content.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the preloaded decode or descramble software is automatically sent to the video interfacing arrangement.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the preloaded decode or descramble software is sent to the video interfacing arrangement only on request.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein, for a given multimedia content, content is sent only once to the portal server, which then sends it to all interested modules.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein, when establishing a certified connection between a receiving device and a multimedia server, the receiving device transmits an identifier specific to it to the portal server, the portal server then determines the address corresponding to the identifier received, the portal server having stored in its memory every identifier of authorized receiving devices with their corresponding physical address, the portal server calling

then the device located at the address corresponding to the identifier received.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, further comprising an additional set where the portal server asks its identifier to the called back receiving device and confirmation that this receiving device is trying to establish a connection with the calling portal server.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the portal server is used as a controller for contents which are to be delivered by the module and supervised by the application server, the portal server can authorize delivery of such content from the module.

59. (Previously Presented) Video interfacing apparatus that connects to at least one display device and at least one multimedia server collecting or storing video programs or sequences containing reference images, the video interfacing apparatus comprising a module including a dedicated and programmed digital processing unit adapted to decode and descramble any type of video flow according to a preloaded decoding or descrambling program, to display it, in real time or delayed in time, to store it, to record it and/or to send it over a telecommunication network, and at least one screen interface, at least one storage or recording interface, a local or wide area network connecting interface and a user communication and controlling interface, the interfaces being linked to and driven by the processing unit, wherein the storage or recording interface is adapted to receive, store or record, from the multimedia server, a first part of a video program corresponding to an original video program in which some or all of I-frames are substituted and the apparatus is adapted to automatically connect to a multimedia server each time a user wants to watch a video program to obtain a second part of the video program corresponding to some or all of the I-frames and to information allowing reconstruction of the original video program from the first part.

60. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, adapted

to systematically transmit information representative of the user each time the user wants to watch the original video program such that a multimedia server checks the user's authorization before sending the user the second part kept by the multimedia server and needed to watch the original video program.

61. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the program restoring the original video program is partially stored on the module.

62. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the program restoring the original video program is totally stored on the module.

63. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the program restoring the original video program is partially executed by the module.

64. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the program restoring the original video program is totally executed by the module.

65. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the storage or recording interface(s) comprise(s) a hard disk interface and/or an analog or digital video recorder interface.

66. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the screen interface(s) comprise(s) a standard wire connection screen interface and/or a wireless screen interface and wherein the user communication and controlling interface comprises a remote control interface.

67. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the module also includes at least one smart card or credit card style memory card reader interface.

68. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59,

wherein the network connecting interface is linked to a wide area network, directly or through a local area network forming an access network, and comprises a digital subscriber line interface.

69. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the module also includes a video camera interface for connecting at least one local camera and transmission links with distant webcams being possible through the network connecting interface.

70. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the module includes all of the interfaces and constitutes an independent device mounted in a corresponding protective box.

71. (Previously Presented) The video interfacing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the module and interfaces are mounted inside a television, on an electronic control card of the television or at least partially on a separate card, the dedicated digital processing unit comprising a monoprocessor or media processor and/or being identical with the television processor.

72. (Previously Presented) A distribution system for transferring encoded video programs and sequences over a wide area network towards authorized users or system subscribers for display under given conditions on adapted screens, comprising one or several multimedia servers, collecting and storing at least video programs and sequences and each connected, directly or via a portal or gate server and/or an access network, to the wide area network and a plurality of video interfacing apparatii according to claim 59, linked to the wide area network, and installed at the users' homes or at predetermined locations, each video interfacing apparatus being associated with at least one television screen type display device.

73. (Previously Presented) The distribution system according to claim 72, wherein at least one multimedia server is associated with telecommunication or broadcast reception means and that at

least one multimedia server is connected to directly access the wide area network.

74. (Previously Presented) The distribution system according to claim 72, wherein the multimedia servers and/or the portal server(s) comprise means to encode and scramble video data, including means to add and entangle cryptographic and security information at the beginning and along the sequences to decrease picture quality upon unauthorized viewing, copying or reviewing of a sequence.

75. (Previously Presented) The distribution system according to claim 72, wherein the multimedia server and/or the portal server comprises a preloaded decoding or descrambling software stored in its memory.

76. (Previously Presented) The distribution system according to claim 72, wherein the portal server contains means for keeping the second part needed to watch the original video program.